



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Lusby Man Pleads Guilty to January 14 Armed Bank Robbery

A knife-wielding man arrested following the armed robbery of a bank customer and teller last January pleaded guilty to two counts of armed robbery in Howard County Circuit Court this morning. Shawn Michael Cowens, 41, of the 1100 block of El Dorado Drive, Lusby, pleaded guilty before Judge Richard S. Bernhardt.

According to police and prosecutors, Cowens entered the Sandy Spring Bank branch at 704 Lisbon Center Drive, Woodbine, shortly before noon on January 11, 2017. He robbed a waiting customer of \$978. Cowens then demanded money from a bank teller before he fled with an additional \$4,500. A citizen, who witnessed the bank robbery, followed Cowens north on Route 94 to a wooded area, just north of the shopping center, where he was arrested by responding police officers. Assistant State's Attorney Susan Weinstein told the court that in a post-Miranda interview, Cowens confessed to the robberies and admitted to carrying a silver-bladed folding knife.

Judge Bernhardt ordered a pre-sentence investigation and set a sentencing date of September 5. Cowens, who is being held without bond, faces a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in prison.

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